

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claims 1, 3 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Soguel. Claims 2, 4 and 6 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and were otherwise indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 11-29 were allowed. The Examiner acknowledged applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and noted that a certified copy of the Japanese priority application has not yet been received. The Examiner further acknowledged consideration of the information disclosure statement submitted by applicants.

In accordance with this response, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject of allowable dependent claim 2 and, in addition, to include a recitation that the inner case is mounted to the outer case so as to be rotatable relative to the outer case, thereby placing claim 1 in allowable form. Claim 2 has been canceled.

Claim 3 has been amended in clarifying respects to recite that the elastic member is disposed between the inner and outer cases for holding the inner case at the upper stop position by interfering with a protrusion of the inner case. This is described, for example, in the original specification in the paragraph bridging pages 4-5.

Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to depend on allowable claim 1 rather than now-canceled claim 2.

Claims 5 and 7 were previously canceled.

Claim 8 has been amended to recite, with reference to the embodiment shown in Figs. 1-2, a deformable elastic member 5 held by the outer case 1 and projecting toward the inner case 2. Claim 5 recites that the elastic member 5 has a normal non-deformed state and is elastically deformed by a protrusion 25 of the inner case 2 during upward movement of the inner case from the lower stop position to the upper stop position following which the elastic member 5 returns to its non-deformed state and engages with an underside of the protrusion 25 to hold the inner case 2 in the upward position, as shown in Fig. 2.

Claim 9 has been amended to clarify that the inner and outer cases have engageable contact portions (rather than protrusions) for limiting an extent of upward vertical movement of the inner case 2. For example, as described in the original specification on page 6, third paragraph, the outer case 1 has a contact portion 11 which engages with a contact portion 26 of the inner case 2 to limit the extent of upward vertical movement of the inner case, i.e., to prevent withdrawal or falling out of the inner case 2 from the outer case 1.

Claim 10 has been canceled.

The substitute specification has been amended to provide a direct antecedent basis for the terminology used in the amended claims. All of the revisions made to the specification find clear support in the original disclosure.

In summary, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 2, thereby placing claim 1 in allowable form. Claims 3, 4, 6, 8 and 9 all depend on allowable claim 1 and are, therefore, likewise allowable. Claims 2, 5, 7 and 10 have been canceled. Claims 11-29 stand allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments, the application is now believed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

In the event the Examiner determines that something further need be done to place the application in allowable form, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney whereupon any outstanding matter will be promptly attended to.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS FEE AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

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Name



Signature

November 10, 2003

Date